

CT Transportation Committee – Alan Nudelman

My name is Alan Nudelman and I am a member of Temple Israel of Westport, a former Board member and Trustee.

In the 1930's FDR spoke at the DAR HQ. He started: "Hello fellow immigrants."

As FDR was saying, we are all immigrants.

Grandpa Nudelman came to the USA in 1892 and rolled cigars, was a member of a Samuel Gompers union, later the AF of L. It was a great Union. For every 10 cigar rollers, there was 1 reader. Grandpa Nudelman learned English while rolling cigars.

A fellow cigar roller and Russian immigrant was William Paley, later founder of CBS and prior to that founder of La Paulina cigar company. His wife Pauline's image was on the Cigar box. Perhaps some in this room can remember that.

Uncle Morris, who rolled cigars next to his brother, said William Paley asked them both to join him in his new business. Grandpa Nudelman said it never happened.

Now, I am a manufacturer in Milford. I believe this DL Program is both pragmatic and beneficial to business and Government. CBIA devoted its monthly communication, some time ago, to the need for more graduating immigrants to stay here in the North East. We need more graduates to fill our companies. CONECT's efforts, with the legislature, to allow undocumented High School graduates to attend CT colleges with Instate Tuition, if accepted, was a good thing to do. Now the DL proposed legislation will help keep their families intact.

I have called on 3 Chiefs of Police and Westport's 1st Selectman. They have all strongly been in favor of this proposed legislation.

I think Grandpa Nudelman would be proud that I am a businessman, hiring working people, some immigrants, and working with CONECT to give immigrants a level playing field. Maybe one of them will be my next plant manager.